



#04-099

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### Caltrans Innovation Wins Excellence Award

REDDING – The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) in District 2 has put into use on northstate roads an award winning new weed barrier. An "Excellence in Transportation" award was presented in April of this year to Caltrans District 2 for outstanding innovation in the development of CRMCrete, a recycled tire based weed barrier product developed by local Caltrans personnel.

The Office of Roadside Maintenance saw a need for an economical weed barrier due to mandates requiring the reduction of the use of herbicides. Project Engineer Sal Torres developed the idea of combining concrete and crumb rubber, which soon evolved into CRMCrete. Several Project Engineers have used CRMCrete locally around signs, guard railing and in gore areas on ramps to reduce weeds and have found it to be useful and cost effective.

CRMCrete includes scrap tire crumb rubber, a recycled content tire product, and reinforcing fibers. It is 2 percent rubber by weight and the placement of one cubic meter (approximately the size of a small household refrigerator) of CRMCrete recycles eight tires. More than 10,000 scrap tires could be disposed of if CRMCrete was placed at 25 percent of the District's metal beam guard railing.

The reinforcing fibers add toughness to the concrete, which allows the placement of CRMCrete at only 2 inches thick with minimal cracking. The lower maintenance levels reduce the time Caltrans personnel need to be on the roadway, therefore increasing worker safety.

The cost varies from \$1.80 per square foot to \$3.50 per square foot, depending on the depth, addition of color and stamping. The lifecycle is anticipated to be 30 years. The most popular method of alternative weed control is the placement of asphalt concrete, which cost \$3 per square foot and has an average lifecycle of 10 years. CRMCrete is also fire resistant and provides a protective barrier for guard railing posts against fire.

CRMCrete has been used in District 2 in the median on Interstate 5 between Redding and Anderson, in the Red Bluff area and on the new Sacramento River Bridge near Anderson and well as around the guardrail on State Route 299 near Old Oregon Trail and Churn Creek Road.

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NOTE: An electronic version of this news release is available on the internet at the following web address: [http://www.dot.ca.gov/dist2/news\\_releases.htm](http://www.dot.ca.gov/dist2/news_releases.htm)